



STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE
COMMUNITY AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Received & processed

MAR 27 2018

Bill Walker, Governor
Mike Navarre, Commissioner
Stephen McAlpine, Chairman

Regulatory Commission of Alaska

March 21, 2018

Marlene H. Dortch
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Re: Section 214 Application of Matanuska Telephone Association, Inc., Seeking
Authority to Discontinue BETRS Service; Docket WC 17-363 – Absence of State
Regulatory Approval Notification

Ms. Dortch,

The Regulatory Commission of Alaska (RCA) has received a courtesy filing pursuant to requirements in 47 CFR § 63.71(a) of Matanuska Telephone Association, Inc.'s (MTA) recent Section 214 Application to discontinue Basic Exchange Telecommunications Radio Service (BETRS) throughout its service territory. The Section 214 Application indicates that MTA intends to discontinue BETRS service "on or about June 1, 2018 or upon completion of all necessary federal and state regulatory approvals."

MTA is a telecommunications cooperative that operates in Alaska under authority from the RCA pursuant to Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) No. 19. MTA also is currently designated by the RCA as both the Local Exchange Carrier of Last Resort (LEC COLR) for the service area associated with CPCN No. 19 and as a wireline Eligible Telecommunications Carrier for a coextensive study area. The RCA notes that each of these authorities obligates MTA to either provide local exchange service on request or forgo discontinuing local exchange service within its service territory without express approval from the RCA.

This letter is to inform you and other interested parties in Docket WC 17-363 that to date, the RCA has received no request from MTA seeking approval to discontinue BETRS service under any of these State of Alaska regulatory obligations.

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The RCA therefore respectfully requests that the FCC either decline to make a substantive decision on the merits of MTA's Section 214 Application until the RCA is able to fully investigate this matter or to make any final determination expressly conditioned on MTA's receipt of RCA approval for its planned service discontinuance.

Sincerely,

REGULATORY COMMISSION OF ALASKA

Stephen McAlpine
Chairman

cc:

Michael Burke
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